

The NAB is justified in its concern that satellite radio is a threat to conventional commercial radio. Over the past 10 years there is less and less variety as a direct result of the "super-sizing" of American radio networks to the point that a hand full of national corporations control the majority of the broadcast content. The corporations implement "formula" and "multi-market" programming formats that intersperse the barrage of commercials with homogeneous content (reference ClearChannel). This "formula" is exactly what is driving consumers to satellite and away from commercial radio. While I appreciate the business model (and its limitations) that commercial radio operates under, it is my opinion that most commercial broadcasters are failing the very public that grants permission to use of the airwaves.

As a consumer, I'm willing to pay for the programming that I enjoy and require. If the NAB feels violated because they failed to close a competitive loophole through regulation / legislation then perhaps they should actually try competing and counter programming. The audience for satellite radio is small (but growing fast). Do not enact legislation that limits the future of a promising technology. What's next? Will the NAB oppose the Weather Channel offering of "Local on the 8s" local weather over cable?

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Regards,  
Brian Allston - XM Subscriber